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ABSTRACT

A study was conducted by the Veterans' Administration in June 1976 to determine completion rates for education and training under the Vietnam Era GI Bill for veterans who had terminated training by June 1972. The study was based on responses to a questionnaire sent to a sample of Vietnam era veterans and summarizes their reported completion rates, current employment and earnings, degree or certificate earned, areas of training, and other factors. College and other resident school and on-job trainees had high completion rates but correspondence school trainees much lower ones. About half the discontinuances were due to financial problems together with job interference. Other responses indicated that the majority of the veterans completing training had lower unemployment rates, utilized their training at work, and had higher earnings than those not completing training. The questionnaire, discussion of results, and tabular data are included. (MF)

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94th Congress
2d Session } SENATE COMMITTEE PRINT NO. 48

COMPLETION RATES FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING UNDER THE VIETNAM ERA GI BILL

A STUDY

SUBMITTED BY THE

VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION

TO THE

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
UNITED STATES SENATE

VANCE HARTKE, *Chairman*

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION,
OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS,
Washington, D.C., August 10, 1976.

Hon. VANCE HARTKE,
Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: As you may remember, in a letter dated July 1, 1976, I noted that an analysis of training by correspondence under the GI bill and a study of course completion rates for education and training under the Vietnam era GI bill would be completed and submitted to you shortly. Copies of these reports are forwarded herewith.

I sincerely hope that you and your committee will find the information contained in these documents helpful.

Sincerely,

RICHARD L. ROUDEBUSH,
Administrator.

Enclosures.

COMPLETION RATES FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING UNDER THE VIETNAM ERA GI BILL

For Veterans Who Had Terminated Training by June 1972

Prepared by:

Reports and Statistics Service (042A1)
Office of Controller
Veterans Administration

June 1976

(1)

FOREWORD

This study requested information from a sample of 22,000 Vietnam era veterans who had trained under the GI bill prior to July 1, 1972 and who had either completed training or had dropped out of training at least one year prior to the survey. 1/ The sample was stratified on the basis of education at time of first application, 2/ type of training taken, proprietary status of the training institution, and whether the training was on a full-time or a part-time basis. 3/ The overall response rate in this study was 69 percent, but this improves to 88 percent when "postal returns" are excluded.

The completion rates cited in this report represent transitory rates of completion which had been attained at a given point in time rather than ultimate completion rates. This is explained by the fact that most of the veterans who had entered training by July 1, 1972 had not had sufficient time to complete their training. Therefore, it is necessary to base estimates of completion rate on those who began training in the early years of the program (fiscal years 1967, 1968 and 1969). Even among those trainees, many remained in training and therefore are not reflected in the indicated completion rates. All veterans in the study who had dropped out of training still were eligible to reenter training for at least another four years, and up to nine years for some. To the extent that they reenter and complete training the completion rate will be increased.

1/ The date of the sample selection was May 1973; the data were gathered during the first two quarters of fiscal year 1974.

2/ Special attention will be drawn later to those veterans who entered training at the college level with exactly a high school education.

3/ A trainee was determined to be in full or part-time training according to his status during his last period of training.

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I. HIGHLIGHTS

A. Completion Rates

1. Results at this time (through July 1, 1972) indicate that we may expect course completion by at least 2 of 3 full-time school trainees (college level or other schools) and 8 of 10 for apprentice or other on-job trainees.

2. Completion of training on a part-time basis requires a longer period of time, making our findings less conclusive for part-time than for full-time trainees. However, current data appear to be sufficient to substantiate course completion rates of at least 1 of 3 for part-time college level trainees and 1 of 2 for part-time resident trainees in other schools.

B. Reasons for Not Continuing Training

1. Nearly one-half (48 percent) of all veterans who had discontinued training prior to completion attributed their decision to either financial problems or to job interference.

2. Correspondence school trainees exhibited the lowest completion rates and one-fifth (22 percent) of those trainees who discontinued did so because the training was not what they had expected.

C. Current Employment Status: Veterans who completed training had an unemployment rate of 3.3 percent compared to 6.7 percent for those who stopped short of completion. At the same time (June - December 1973) the unemployment rate for all Vietnam era veterans (20 to 34 years of age) was 4.6 percent.

D. Utilization of Training

1. Almost 9 of 10 veterans completing college level training have made substantial use of the training received under the GI bill; almost 2 of 3 who trained on a full-time basis are employed in the occupational field for which they trained (see table 4).

2. The highest rate of usage of skills acquired in training is 95 percent for on-job trainees; the lowest is 60 percent for correspondence trainees.

3. More than half (51 percent) of the veterans who took full-time training in resident schools other than college are employed in the same occupational field for which they trained, and another 25 percent are making substantial use of skills learned while training under the GI bill.

E. Earnings

1. Completion of training produces a substantially higher level of earnings as compared to noncompletion. The highest post-training income is reported by part-time college level students and on-job trainees (see table 5).

2. College and other resident school trainees who trained on a part-time basis earn at a substantially higher rate than veterans who trained in those schools on a full-time basis. This is probably because the part-time trainees are likely to have been employed in their career field for a longer period of time (whether or not they completed their training).

3. The lowest median earnings for Vietnam era veterans who completed training are for veterans who trained full time in resident schools other than college. Their median earnings are even lower than for the veterans who stopped short of completion in all other types of training. These veterans have less prior education (at first application) than veterans who used other types of training.

F. Degree, Certificate or License Earned

1. More than half (52 percent) of the college level trainees who completed their training received Bachelor's degrees. Slightly more than one of seven trainees (14 percent) received an Associate degree. A slightly higher proportion (15 percent) received Masters degrees. The proportion of trainees receiving First Professional, Doctorate and post-Doctorate degrees is about 2 percent each (see table 6).

2. Less than one of five (18 percent) of the trainees in other resident schools who completed their training received a license. Nearly 6 of 10 (59 percent) received a certificate of completion.

G. Areas of Training

1. Business and commerce is the most frequently cited major field of study among college level trainees who completed their training. Three of ten (30 percent) college level trainees majored in this field. Education is the second most frequently cited major field of study. Ten percent of the college level trainees who completed their training specialized in that field. Engineering and health professions follow closely behind (9 percent for each of these major fields of study).

2. "Computer Technology" is the most frequently cited type of training taken by trainees who completed their training in resident schools other than college; more than one of six (18 percent) completed this type of training. The next two most frequently completed fields are "Mechanics and repairmen" (13 percent) and "Electronics" (11 percent).

II. DETAILED INFORMATION

A. Completion Rates: Table 1 gives a comprehensive overview of completion rates for trainees by year of original entrance:

Table 1

COMPLETION RATES OF TRAINEES BY FISCAL YEAR OF ORIGINAL ENTRANCE

(In Percentages)

Group	Fiscal Year of Original Entrance					
	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
College Level						
Full time	80.6	68.3	67.4	45.8	36.4	16.7
Part time	46.3	31.8	30.1	27.8	15.0	11.1
Other Resident School						
Full time	70.7	66.5	64.5	67.2	57.1	53.1
Part time	52.1	56.5	47.4	50.3	41.6	30.8
On-Job Training						
Apprentice		87.7	81.2	61.0	34.6	14.8
Other		76.4	83.2	75.6	63.4	34.6
Correspondence (Noncollege)	50.4	25.6	29.4	34.2	[illegible]	25.2

5.

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1. College Level Trainees

a. The time required for completion of undergraduate training (bachelor's degree) is usually 4 years. This assumes that the student trains on a full-time basis and carries an average credit load which is sufficient to provide the credits necessary for graduation. Part-time students require a much longer time to complete training and may require more than twice as long. Therefore, completion rates obtained from this survey for part-time trainees and all trainees who, at the time of this study have had less than 4 years in which to complete training, are subject to substantial growth in subsequent years.

b. The completion rate at a given point in time is a function of many factors. One of them is how much progress, if any, a trainee had made toward his educational objective at the time he entered the VA education program. Table 1A contains completion rates for full-time college level trainees by educational attainment at time of application, by year of original entrance.

Table 1A

COMPLETION RATES OF COLLEGE LEVEL TRAINEES BY FISCAL YEAR OF ORIGINAL ENTRANCE, TRAINING TIME, AND PRIOR EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

(In Percentages)

Training Time	Prior Educational Attainment 1/	Fiscal Year of Original Entrance					
		1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Full-Time	All levels	80.6	68.3	67.4	45.8	36.4	16.7
	Ed. level = 12 yrs.	79.3	64.2	58.5	27.2	17.9	5.2
	Ed. level > 12 yrs.	84.4	74.7	82.5	76.8	75.1	49.4
Part-Time	All levels	46.3	31.8	30.1	27.8	15.0	11.1
	Ed. level = 12 yrs.	34.1	18.8	23.1	20.3	6.9	9.9
	Ed. level > 12 yrs.	66.6	66.0	51.4	43.9	36.1	17.2

1/ Education level = 12 is equivalent to a high school education.
Education level > 12 is equivalent to at least some college education.

c. The completion rate for full-time college level trainees (all levels of prior educational attainment) who entered in fiscal year 1968 is only slightly higher than for trainees who entered in the following year. This suggests that these rates may not be too far away from the ultimate completion rate of full-time college level trainees. The completion rate for trainees entering in fiscal year 1967 is presumed to be atypical because it includes a disproportionate number of veterans who had entered training before the Vietnam era GI bill was enacted into law; these veterans came into training with their educational program at various stages of completion. The proportion of new full-time college level trainees with some prior college training was 56 percent for those who started training under the GI bill in fiscal year 1967 compared to 35 percent for those who began in fiscal year 1968.

d. Part-time college level trainees have a much lower completion rate than their full-time college level counterparts. Attending college on a part-time basis increases the time required to reach an educational objective, and may also decrease the chances of eventual attainment of the trainee's educational objective. The cumulative combined effects of financial stress, family responsibilities and job requirements may erode the trainee's capability to pursue his training program to its completion.

2. Other Resident School Trainees

a. Usually the time required to complete training in types of schools other than college is less than the time required for college level training. Consequently, the transitory completion rate is higher among full-time "other school" trainees who originally entered training in fiscal year 1970 through fiscal year 1972 than for college level trainees who entered in those years.

b. The transitory completion rate is greater among part-time "other school" trainees than among their college level counterparts for each year of original entrance (see table 1). This is because of the usually shorter length of time required to complete a program of training in the "other school" category. This also explains why the difference in completion rates between part and full-time trainees is much narrower among "other school" trainees than for college level.

c. When full-time "other school" trainees are classified by educational level at time of application, the completion rate is higher among those with a high school education (or some college) than for those who did not complete high school (see table 1B).

Table 1B

COMPLETION RATE OF FULL-TIME OTHER RESIDENCE SCHOOL TRAINEES BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AT APPLICATION AND FISCAL YEAR OF ORIGINAL ENTRANCE

(In Percentage)

Prior Educational Attainment 1/	Fiscal Year of Original Entrance					
	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Education level < 12 years	56.4	47.8	49.9	45.1	49.8	39.1
Education level ≥ 12 years	73.8	69.4	66.1	70.9	58.9	57.1

1/ Education level < 12 means less than a high school education.
Education level ≥ 12 means a high school education or some college.

3. Apprentice and Other On-Job Trainees: The completion rate among apprentice trainees exceeds that of college level trainees. Over 80 percent of the trainees who originally entered in fiscal year 1968 or 1969 reportedly completed their training. Other on-job trainees also have a high completion rate, but it is less than for apprentice trainees. As can be seen in table 1, the completion rate among other on-job trainees exceeds that of apprentice trainees beginning with fiscal year 1970. This probably is due to a shorter time required for completion of training taken by other on-job trainees.

4. Correspondence School Trainees: Trainees in correspondence school have the lowest completion rate of all trainees and, except for those who entered training in fiscal year 1967, the transitory completion rate has not exceeded 35 percent (see table 1C). However, there does seem to be a trend toward an increasing completion rate for correspondence trainees as the program ages.

Table 1C

COMPLETION RATES OF CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL TRAINEES BY FISCAL YEAR OF ORIGINAL ENTRANCE AND EDUCATIONAL LEVEL

(In Percentage)

Prior Educational Attainment	Fiscal Year of Original Entrance					
	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Education level ≤ 12 years	28.1	22.8	23.8	29.7	26.5	24.2
Education level > 12 years	53.9	26.1	30.5	34.9	32.9	25.4
TOTAL	50.4	25.6	29.4	34.2	31.2	25.2

As can be seen in table 1C, educational level does not have a substantial impact on the completion rate of correspondence trainees (with the exception of trainees who entered in fiscal year 1967).

5. Flight Trainees

a. Veterans who entered flight training between fiscal year 1968 and 1972 (inclusive) have a completion rate of 60.4 percent. The sample size is insufficient to provide stable estimates by year of original entrance.

b. Public vs. Private: College and Other Residence Schools

(1) Veterans attending private schools exhibit higher completion rates than those attending public schools. This relationship holds for both college and other resident schools, by prior educational attainment and for either full or part-time student status. Table 1D follows:

Table 1D

COMPLETION RATES: PUBLIC VS. PRIVATE SCHOOLS

(In Percentage)

Group	Prior Educational Attainment	Public	Private
College Level			
Full Time	Education level ≤ 12 years	39.6	59.0
	Education level > 12 years	74.7	84.8
Part Time	Education level ≤ 12 years	17.3	25.1
	Education level > 12 years	49.6	54.2
Other Resident Schools			
Full Time		57.2	64.6
Part Time		35.1	51.1

8.

(2) The completion rates in the above table should not be taken out of context. These overall transitory rates include data for all entry years (1967 - 1972); therefore, they are less valid as a basis for inference of ultimate completion rates than are the data shown in tables 1, 1A and 1B. The appropriate interpretation of table 1D lies in comparison across a line, left to right; i.e., public vs. private institutions. In each instance the rate for the private schools is substantially higher than for the public schools.

B. Reasons for Not Continuing Training: For those veterans who did not complete their training (answered NO to question 1 of the survey) there appears to be 4 primary reasons influencing their discontinuance. These are shown in table 2.

Table 2

REASONS FOR NOT CONTINUING TRAINING

(In Percentage)

Group	Financial Problems	Job Interferred	Not What Expected	No Longer Interested
College Level				
Full Time	37.2	15.4	4.4	8.7
Part Time	21.0	32.3	3.1	10.6
Other Resident School				
Full Time	35.1	17.0	15.9	7.7
Part Time	17.0	32.1	20.8	8.0
On-Job Training	13.5	6.8	11.6	12.9
Correspondence	14.7	24.6	21.8	14.1
TOTAL	24.8	23.4	10.4	10.4

1. Approximately one-half (48.2 percent) of all veterans who had discontinued training prior to completion attributed their decision to either financial problems or to job interference.

2. Financial problems proved to be the primary factor for full-time college (37.2 percent) and other resident school (35.1 percent) trainees, whereas, job interference was the prime influence for part-time college (32.3 percent) and other resident school (32.1 percent) trainees.

3. Combined, the forementioned 2 reasons produced only 20.3 percent of the on-job trainees' non-completion.

4. Also noteworthy is the fact that about one of five (21.8 percent) correspondence trainees who discontinued training had done so because the training was not what they had expected. Coupling this with the fact that correspondence schools exhibit the lowest completion rates, we must conclude that training in correspondence schools is the least effective of the types of training available under the current GI bill (also see paragraph D).

C. Current Employment Status: Table 3 follows wherein unemployment rates are exhibited for both veterans who completed their training and also for those who did not.

Table 3

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOLLOWING TRAINING

(In Percentage)

Group	Completed	Not Completed
College Level (ICL)		
Full Time	3.0	9.1
Part Time	2.5	4.0
Other Resident Schools (BCL)		
Full Time	5.5	12.4
Part Time	2.9	6.3
On-Job Training	3.2	5.9
Correspondence (BCL)	2.3	5.2
TOTAL	3.3	6.7

1. For each group listed in table 3, we find the unemployment rate is higher for the segment of veterans who did not complete training than the segment who did. Furthermore, the unemployment rate for the total of all trainees who did not complete their schooling was about twice as high as for those who did complete (6.7 percent versus 3.3 percent).

2. For college and other resident school students, unemployment rates at the time of the survey were substantially influenced by whether the trainees had last been pursuing their schooling on a full or part-time basis. Part-time students, who were probably at least part-time employed while training, manifested lower unemployment rates at survey time than the full-time students, most of whom were probably no more than part-time employed while training. These differences hold for both the 'completed' and 'not completed' segments of the veterans.

D. Utilization of Training: Trainees were asked whether they have used skills or knowledge they learned while in training. Table 4 shows two types of usage rates, ('employed same field' and 'substantial use') for veterans who completed training as well as for those who did not:

Table 4

PERCENT USING SKILLS FOLLOWING TRAINING

Group	Completed			Not Completed		
	Employed Same Field	Substantial Use	Subtotal	Employed Same Field	Substantial Use	Subtotal
College Level	63.0	26.0	89.0	17.7	27.2	44.9
Full Time	65.6	23.8	89.4	15.0	26.6	41.6
Part Time	55.4	32.5	87.9	20.2	27.8	48.0
Other Resident Schools	47.1	26.3	73.4	10.4	20.4	30.8
Full Time	51.2	25.2	76.4	10.5	18.2	28.7
Part Time	37.7	28.7	66.4	10.2	23.3	33.5
On-Job Training	83.7	11.3	95.0	27.3	23.2	50.5
Correspondence	25.8	34.6	60.4	11.6	18.2	29.8
Flight School	39.9	36.1	76.0	13.1	34.1	47.2
TOTAL	58.3	24.8	83.1	15.7	24.1	39.8

10.

1. Just as we noticed a substantial difference for unemployment rates of veterans who completed training versus those who did not, we again exhibit substantial differences for skill usage. Overall, veterans who completed training show an 83.1 percent skill usage rate compared to 39.8 percent for those not completing.

2. Veterans completing college level training have made at least substantial use of their training in about 9 of 10 cases (89.0 percent) with almost two-thirds (65.6 percent) of the full-time college students reporting employment in the same occupational field for which they trained.

3. Veterans completing training in other resident schools did not fare quite so well as the college trainees, but still exhibited a usage rate of 73.4 percent, those completing who had attended full-time showed 51.2 percent employed in the same occupational field for which they trained, and another 25.2 percent were making substantial use of skills learned.

4. Naturally the highest rate of usage of skills acquired in training was for on-job trainees, with a usage rate of 95.0 percent. Correspondence school trainees showed the lowest usage rate, 60.4 percent. Considering the lower completion rate for correspondence trainees, it appears that fewer veterans who train in correspondence schools may ever complete that training and derive at least substantial use of skills or knowledge acquired than they might attain in any other type of training.

E. Earnings: The following table gives median earnings for Vietnam era veterans who completed training and for those who stopped short of completion. Table 5 also makes appropriate earning comparisons, as displayed.

Table 5

MEDIAN EARNINGS

Group	Completed	Did Not Complete	Percent Completed Exceeds Not Completed	Percent Part Time Exceeds Full Time: Completed	Percent Part Time Exceeds Full Time: Not Completed
College Level					
Full Time	$ 11,324	$ 8,901	27.2		
Part Time	12,195	10,285	18.6	7.7	15.5
Other Resident Schools					
Full Time	8,768	7,969	10.0		
Part Time	10,223	9,550	7.0	16.6	19.8
On-Job Training	11,805	9,689	21.8		
Correspondence	10,136	9,726	4.2		
TOTAL	10,813	9,596	12.7		

1. From table 5 we see that completion of training produced a substantial increase in earnings over those who stopped short of completion. Part-time college level students and on-job trainees reported the highest median for post-training earnings.

2. Regarding college and other resident school trainees, those veterans who trained on a part-time basis earn at a substantially higher rate than those who trained full-time. (This holds whether the trainees did or did not complete their schooling.) While these veterans were training part-time, they were probably also working part or full-time, thereby giving them a longer period of actual work experience than occurred for full-time trainees.

3. Full-time students who trained in other resident schools exhibited the lowest median earnings for all veterans who completed training. Their median earnings are even lower than the earnings for veterans who stopped short of completion in all other types of training.

4. In table 5 we observe a relationship between the necessary time for completion of training and the relative financial benefit derived from that completion. Of all the groups, college level training requires the greatest time for completion. This fact is consistent with our observance that college level trainees exhibit the largest relative difference in median earnings between those completing schooling and those not. This relationship is observed for the other groups as well: on-job training exhibits the second greatest relative difference and resident schools other than college the third greatest. Correspondence training for which completion time is determined by the trainee rather than the training institution, exhibits the least relative difference in median earnings (only 4.2 percent).

F. Degree, Certificate or License Earned: For those veterans who completed their training (answered YES to question 1 of the survey), the distribution of those receiving degrees, certificates, licenses, etc. is as shown in table 6:

Table 6

TYPE OF RECOGNITION FOR COMPLETION OF TRAINING

(In Percentage)

Group	Associate Degree	Bachelors Degree	Masters Degree	First Professional	Doctorate	Post Doctorate	Other
College Level	14.5	51.9	15.2	2.2	2.1	2.4	11.3
Full Time	13.6	56.3	14.7	1.9	2.2	3.1	7.8
Part Time	17.3	38.2	16.6	3.3	1.7	0.3	22.2

	High School Diploma	License	Certificate	Other
Other Resident Schools	4.2	18.2	59.2	18.2
Full Time	2.3	20.3	58.8	18.3
Part Time	8.6	13.4	59.9	17.9
On-Job Training	0.9	9.1	46.5	43.3
Correspondence	4.7	12.2	63.3	19.5

NOTE: Rows may not add to 100% due to rounding.

1. More than half (51.9 percent) of the trainees at the college level who completed their schooling received a Bachelor's degree. Another 15.2 percent received a Master's degree and 14.5 percent obtained an Associate degree. The proportion of trainees receiving a First Professional, Doctorate and post-Doctorate degrees are 2.2, 2.1, and 2.4 percent, respectively.

2. Nearly 6 of 10 (59.2 percent) of the trainees in resident schools other than college who completed their schooling received a certificate. For on-job trainees this figure was 46.5 percent and for correspondence trainees it was 63.3 percent. Licenses represented the second greatest form of recognition for completion of training at other resident schools, on-job training, and correspondence trainings with percentages of 18.2, 9.1, and 12.2 percent, respectively (see table 6).

G. Areas of Training: For those veterans who completed their training (answered YES to question 1 of the survey), major fields of study are shown, by education group, in table 7:

Table 7

MAJOR AREAS OF TRAINING

(In Percentage)

Group	Business & Commerce	Education	Engineering	Health Professions
College Level	30.0	10.0	8.6	8.6
Full Time	36.8	10.6	8.0	1.5
Part Time	27.8	9.8	8.8	10.9

	Computer Technology	Electronic	Mechanics & Repairmen
Other Resident Schools	17.8	11.1	12.8
Full Time	11.5	11.3	15.0
Part Time	32.6	10.8	7.6

	Construction Trades	Electrical	Protective Services
On-Job Training	17.0	11.5	17.7

	Electronic	Mechanics & Repairmen	Sales
Correspondence	16.1	14.8	17.0

1. Among college level trainees who completed their training, business and commerce is the most frequently cited major field of study. Thirty percent of the college level trainees majored in this field. Education was the second most frequently cited area of study with 10.0 percent and engineering and the health professions follow with 8.6 percent each.

2. Trainees in resident schools other than college who completed their training cited computer technology (17.8 percent) as their most frequently pursued field. Mechanics and repairmen along with electronics followed with 12.8 percent and 11.1 percent, respectively. The three most frequently cited areas of training for on-job trainees were protective services (17.7 percent), construction trades (17.0 percent), and electrical (11.5 percent). Correspondence trainees who completed training showed preferences for sales, electronics, and mechanics and repairmen with 17.0, 16.1, and 14.8 percent, respectively.

3. It should be noted that the percentages exhibited in table 7 only apply to veterans who actually completed training. For example, we cannot state that the same proportion of college students initially majored in engineering as health professions even though both fields showed the same percentage (8.6 percent) for those veterans who completed training. Completion rates (or drop-out rates) undoubtedly vary from one major field to another.

4. For those major areas of training completion the question of skill utilization was posed. Table 7A follows wherein those same areas of training presented in table 7 appear again but now for skill usage:

Table 7A

SKILL UTILIZATION (IN PERCENTS) BY MAJOR AREAS OF TRAINING COMPLETED

	Business & Commerce			Education			Engineering			Health Professions		
	EIF	SU	TOT	EIF	SU	TOT	EIF	SU	TOT	EIF	SU	TOT
College Level	66.4	27.9	94.3	64.6	20.6	85.2	77.5	16.2	93.7	92.7	5.0	97.8
Full Time	60.1	33.6	93.7	61.7	23.2	84.9	65.0	31.8	96.9	95.4	4.6	100.0*
Part Time	69.1	25.4	94.5	65.7	19.7	85.3	81.3	11.5	92.8	92.6	5.0	97.6

	Computer Technology			Electronic			Mechanics & Repairmen		
	EIF	SU	TOT	EIF	SU	TOT	EIF	SU	TOT
Other Resident Schools	40.1	16.4	56.5	54.0	27.2	81.2	35.9	34.4	70.2
Full Time	44.4	15.6	60.0	59.5	24.3	83.8	36.3	35.7	72.0
Part Time	36.5	17.1	53.6	39.9	34.6	74.5	33.8	28.2	62.1

	Construction Trades			Electrical			Protective Services		
	EIF	SU	TOT	EIF	SU	TOT	EIF	SU	TOT
On-Job Training	86.9	10.1	97.0	92.1	6.1	98.2	81.3	12.5	93.8

	Electronics			Mechanics & Repairmen			Sales		
	EIF	SU	TOT	EIF	SU	TOT	EIF	SU	TOT
Correspondence	33.1	48.2	81.4	9.5	38.9	48.4	36.9	26.3	63.1

* Sample size less than ten.

CODE: EIF = Employed In Field
SU = Substantial Use
TOT = Total

5. Table 7A exhibits excellent skill utilization rates for the four major areas of college level training as completed by Vietnam era veterans. These rates are manifested by both the trainees who pursued their studies full-time and those who trained part-time.

6. Computer technology was the most often completed area of training by veterans enrolled in other resident schools. However, total skill usage amounted to only some 56.5 percent. Electronics and Mechanics & Repairmen showed good rates of training usage.

7. As expected, on-job training utilization rates are exceptionally high; this is because the veteran is already in his job field during his training.

8. Veterans who completed correspondence training in electronics exhibit a good total usage rate of 81.4 percent but only one of three (33.1 percent) were employed in the same field for which they trained. Only 9.5 percent of those correspondence trainees who completed studies to be mechanics or repairmen actually were employed in those capacities. The overall usage rate for correspondence trainees is 48.4 percent.

III. CONCLUSIONS

A. High completion rates are exhibited by college trainees as well as other resident school, on-job and flight school trainees. However, correspondence school trainees showed a much lower completion rate.

B. Financial problems together with job interference accounted for about half of the veterans who discontinued their training.

C. More than one of five veterans (21.8 percent) discontinuing correspondence school before completion stated that the training was not what they had expected.

D. Benefits derived from completion of training over non-completion were: lower unemployment rates, increased usage of skills, and greater earning power.

E. Overall, the unemployment rates for veterans completing training were about half those for veterans not completing.

F. With respect to skill usage, the proportion of veterans who are employed in the same field for which they trained or at least are making substantial use of their schooling is twice as great for veterans completing training as those not completing.

G. Median earnings were substantially increased by completing training, with the exception of correspondence trainees who showed only a very slight increase due to completion.

H. Veterans attending private schools exhibit higher completion rates than those attending public schools.

I. Considering the comparatively low rates of completion and usage of skills for correspondence trainees, and the relatively large percent who drop out of training because the training was not what they expected, it appears that training in correspondence schools is the least effective of the types of training available under the current GI bill.

IV. TECHNICAL NOTES: Vietnam era veterans who completed or discontinued their training under chapter 34, title 38, U.S. Code prior to June 1972 were surveyed through use of a self-administered questionnaire. In order to exclude from the sample any veterans who had temporarily interrupted training, veterans were selected only if they had remained in a terminated status for the period July 1972 through May 1973.

A. Stratification

1. The study population was initially partitioned into 29 distinct cells. (One of these was not used because of an inadequate number of trainees). The sample was stratified on the basis of educational attainment at time of first application, type of training taken, proprietary status of the training institution, and whether the training was on a full-time or a part-time basis (see appendix table 1).

2. For purposes of analysis, the original cells were post-stratified (i.e., regrouped) by year of original entrance, training time and type of training.

B. Response Rate: The overall response rate was 68.9 percent. When postal returns are excluded (questionnaires returned by the post office as undeliverable) the adjusted response rate rises to 87.5 percent. Postal returns accounted for 21.2 percent of the total number of trainees selected for this survey. The postal returns were more heavily concentrated in those cells which contain trainees with an 11th grade education or less at the time of application (see appendix table 1). Seven cells had an adjusted response rate of 90 percent or higher, while only one cell had an adjusted response rate of less than 80 percent.

C. Reliability of the Data

1. Standard deviations associated with the percentage estimates contained in tables 1 and 1A - 1D, are given in a series of appendix tables. Earnings as discussed in the report are expressed in terms of medians; however, the computation of standard deviations for earnings are based upon means obtained from grouped observations (see appendix table 7).

2. The confidence intervals for the medians contained in table 5 may be approximated by use of the following formula:

Relative lower limit: $P_L = .5 - .98\sqrt{\frac{(1-f)}{n}}$ 1/

Relative upper limit: $P_U = .5 + .98\sqrt{\frac{(1-f)}{n}}$

Where n is the number of respondents, and f is the finite population correction factor. 2/ Convert P_L and P_U into their absolute equivalent by means of interpolation (e.g., if $P_L = .25$, then find the value associated with the veteran classified in the 25th percentile of the ordered population. This value is the lower absolute limit of the median at the 95% confidence level).

D. The Questionnaire: The questionnaire used in this survey is illustrated in the following attachment.

1/ Hansen, M. H., Hurwitz, W. N., and Madow, W. G. (1953), Sample Survey Methods and Theory, Vol. I, page 448. John Wiley & Sons, New York.

2/ The finite population correction factor is defined as n/N, where N is the study population associated with a given cell.

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS BENEFITS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20420

Date:

In Reply
Refer to:

Dear Veteran:

We are writing to you to request your help. We are making a survey of veterans who have trained under the current GI bill to get an idea how well it is succeeding. You were selected in a small sample of veterans who represent the more than three million veterans who have trained.

Please help us with this survey by completing the attached questionnaire. As soon as you have finished answering the questionnaire, please return it to us in the enclosed self-addressed envelope. We will pay the postage.

One word of assurance. The information you give will be used in the strictest confidence. It will never be put in your VA records or those of any other government agency.

We appreciate your help in this survey.

Odell W. Vaughn

ODELL W. VAUGHN
Chief Benefits Director

FL 24-926
APR 1973

17.

Form Approved
OMB No. 76-S73003

Instructions: Check the appropriate box, for each question.

1. When you last stopped training under the VA program, did you successfully complete your training or reach your intermediate goal? (Check one)

   1 ☐ Yes (skip to question 3)
   2 ☐ No (answer question 2)
   3 ☐ I am in training under the GI bill right now (skip to question 3)

2. What was your MAIN reason for not continuing training or schooling? (Check one)

   1 ☐ I stopped at end of school period and I expect to reenter
   2 ☐ I had financial problems
   3 ☐ My job interferred with my training or schooling
   4 ☐ The training was not what I expected it to be
   5 ☐ I had difficulty with studies
   6 ☐ I was no longer interested in that type of training or schooling
   7 ☐ Other – job related reason
   8 ☐ Other – non-job related reason

3. What is your current employment status? (Check one)

   1 ☐ Working full time (35 hours or more per week)
   2 ☐ Working part time (more than 20 hours and less than 35 hours per week)
   3 ☐ Working part time (20 hours or less per week)
   4 ☐ Temporarily on layoff or on strike
   5 ☐ Not working but have LOOKED for work in the past 4 weeks
   6 ☐ Not working and have NOT looked for work in the past 4 weeks

4. Have you made substantial use of the training or schooling received under the GI bill? (Check one)

   1 ☐ Yes, I am employed in my field of training or schooling
   2 ☐ Yes, I have made substantial use of what I have learned
   3 ☐ No, I am not employed in my field of training and I have not made substantial use of what I have learned.
   4 ☐ No, my training did not prepare me for any specific occupation
   5 ☐ No, I have not been employed since I last stopped training under the GI bill (do not answer question 5)

5. Estimate your YEARLY earnings based upon CURRENT rate of pay before deductions. If not now employed, ESTIMATE your yearly earnings based on the last job you had since you stopped training under the GI bill. (Check one)

   01 ☐ 0–2,999
   02 ☐ 3,000–3,499
   03 ☐ 3,500–3,999
   04 ☐ 4,000–4,499
   05 ☐ 4,500–4,999
   06 ☐ 5,000–5,499
   07 ☐ 5,500–5,999
   08 ☐ 6,000–6,499
   09 ☐ 6,500–6,999
   10 ☐ 7,000–7,499
   11 ☐ 7,500–7,999
   12 ☐ 8,000–8,499
   13 ☐ 8,500–8,999
   14 ☐ 9,000–9,499
   15 ☐ 9,500–9,999
   16 ☐ 10,000–10,499
   17 ☐ 10,500–10,999
   18 ☐ 11,000–11,499
   19 ☐ 11,500–11,999
   20 ☐ 12,000–12,499
   21 ☐ 12,500–12,999
   22 ☐ 13,000–13,999
   23 ☐ 14,000–14,999
   24 ☐ 15,000 and over

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY						
CARD COLUMN	*12*	*13*	*14*	*15*	*16*	*17*
CODE						

ONLY THOSE VETERANS WHO ANSWERED YES TO QUESTION 1 SHOULD ANSWER QUESTIONS 6 and 7.

6. **What degree, certificate or license did you obtain upon completion of your training?**

COLLEGE TRAINEES	ALL OTHER TRAINEES
1 ☐ Associate	1 ☐ High School Diploma
1 ☐ Bachelors	1 ☐ License (specify)_____
1 ☐ Masters	
1 ☐ First Professional	1 ☐ Certificate (specify) _____
1 ☐ Doctorate (Not Medical)	
1 ☐ Post-Doctorate	1 ☐ Other (specify) _____
1 ☐ Other (specify)_____	

7. **Which of the areas of schooling or training listed below did you last complete while training under the GI Bill? (Check one)**

COLLEGE TRAINEES	ALL OTHER TRAINEES
01 ☐ Agriculture	24 ☐ Air Conditioning
02 ☐ Biological Sciences	25 ☐ Assembling and Installing
03 ☐ Business and Commerce	26 ☐ Business and Commerce
04 ☐ Computer Science	27 ☐ Clerical and Secretarial
05 ☐ Education	28 ☐ Computer-Technology
06 ☐ English and Journalism	29 ☐ Construction Trades
07 ☐ Engineering	30 ☐ Drafting
08 ☐ Fine and Applied Arts	31 ☐ Electrical
09 ☐ Foreign Language	32 ☐ Electronic
10 ☐ Forestry	33 ☐ Farm Training
11 ☐ Health Professions	34 ☐ Flight Training
12 ☐ Law	35 ☐ Health Services
13 ☐ Mathematical Sciences	36 ☐ Heavy Equipment Operator
14 ☐ Physical Sciences	37 ☐ Legal
15 ☐ Police Science (including Protective Services)	38 ☐ Machine Operator
16 ☐ Political Science	39 ☐ Management
17 ☐ Psychology	40 ☐ Mechanics and Repairmen
18 ☐ Religion	41 ☐ Metal Workers
19 ☐ Sociology	42 ☐ Printing Trade
20 ☐ Urban Planning	43 ☐ Protective Services (include Policemen and Firemen)
21 ☐ Other Social Science	44 ☐ Sales (including Retail Sales)
22 ☐ Other Science	45 ☐ Service Occupations
23 ☐ Other (specify)_____	46 ☐ Other (specify) _____

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY														
CARD COLUMN	*18*	*19*	*20*	*21*	*22*	*23*	*24*	*25*	*26*	*27*	*28*	*29*	*30*	*31*
CODE														

If you want to write to the Veterans Administration Office in your area, address your letter to the DIRECTOR, VA REGIONAL OFFICE at the address indicated below:

Area	Address
Alabama	Aronov Bldg., 474 S. Court St., Montgomery - 36104
Alaska	Federal Bldg., 709 W. Ninth St., Juneau - 99801
Arizona	Federal Bldg., 230 N. First Ave., Phoenix - 85025
Arkansas	Federal Bldg., 700 W. Capitol Ave., Little Rock - 72201
California	Federal Bldg., 11000 Wilshire Blvd., W. Los Angeles - 90024
	49 Fourth Street, San Francisco - 94103
Colorado	Denver Federal Center, Denver - 80225
Connecticut	450 Main Street, Hartford - 06103
Delaware	1601 Kirkwood Hwy., Wilmington - 19805
District of Columbia	2033 M Street, NW, Washington - 20421
Florida	Federal Bldg., 144 First Ave., S., St. Petersburg - 33701
Georgia	730 Peachtree St., NE, Atlanta - 30308
Hawaii	680 Ala Moana Blvd., Honolulu - 96801
Idaho	550 W. Fort Street, Boise - 83702
Illinois	2030 W. Taylor Street, Chicago - 60612
Indiana	36 South Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis - 46204
Iowa	Federal Office Bldg., 210 Walnut St., Des Moines - 50309
Kansas	5500 E. Kellogg, Wichita - 67218
Kentucky	600 Federal Place, Louisville - 40202
Louisiana	701 Loyola Avenue, New Orleans - 70113
Maine	Togus - 04330
Maryland	Federal Bldg., 31 Hopkins Plaza, Baltimore - 21201
Massachusetts	John Fitzgerald Kennedy Federal Bldg., Boston - 02203
Michigan	801 W. Baltimore at Third, Detroit - 48232
Minnesota	Federal Bldg., Fort Snelling, St. Paul - 55111
Mississippi	1500 E. Woodrow Wilson Blvd., Jackson - 39216
Missouri	Federal Bldg., 1520 Market St., St. Louis - 63103
Montana	Fort Harrison - 59636
Nebraska	230 S. 17th St., Lincoln - 68508
Nevada	*1201 Terminal Way, Reno - 89502
New Hampshire	497 Silver St., Manchester - 03103
New Jersey	20 Washington Place, Newark - 07102
New Mexico	500 Gold Avenue, SW, Albuquerque - 87101
New York	Federal Bldg., 111 W. Huron St., Buffalo - 14202
	252 Seventh Avenue, New York - 10001
North Carolina	Wachovia Bldg., 301 N. Main St., Winston-Salem - 27102
North Dakota	2101 Elm Street, Fargo - 58102
Ohio	Federal Office Bldg., 1240 E. 9th St., Cleveland - 44199
Oklahoma	2nd & Court Street, Muskogee - 74401
Oregon	426 SW Stark St., Portland - 97204
Pennsylvania	5000 Wissahickon Ave. Philadelphia - 19144
	1000 Liberty Ave., Pittsburgh - 15222
Philippines	1131 Roxas Blvd, Manila
Puerto Rico	Barrio Monscillos, Rio Piedras - 00936
Rhode Island	Federal Bldg., Kennedy Plaza, Providence - 02903
South Carolina	1801 Assembly St., Columbia - 29201
South Dakota	2501 West 22nd St., Sioux Falls - 57101
Tennessee	U.S. Courthouse, 801 Broadway, Nashville - 37203
Texas	515 Rusk Avenue, Houston - 77061
	1400 N. Valley Mills Drive, Waco - 76710
Utah	125 S. State Street, Salt Lake City - 84111
Vermont	White River Junction - 05001
Virginia	211 W. Campbell Avenue, Roanoke - 24011
Washington	6th & Lenora Bldg., Seattle - 98121
West Virginia	502 Eighth St., Huntington - 25701
Wisconsin	342 N. Water Street, Milwaukee - 53202
Wyoming	2360 E. Pershing Blvd., Cheyenne - 82001

*DVB Activities

20.

APPENDIX TABLES

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Sample Structure and Response Rate — Appendix Table 1

Cell Description	Cell No.	Sample Size	Number of Respondents	Response Rate	Postal Returns	Adjusted Response Rate
Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL)						
12th grade or below - Public - full time	01	626	429	68.5%	143	88.8%
- part time	02	623	411	65.1	154	87.6
Private - full time	03	623	439	70.5	124	88.0
- part time	04	623	455	73.0	110	88.7
One or more years of college -						
Public - full time	05	541	432	79.9	86	94.9
- part time	06	540	444	82.2	73	95.1
Private - full time	07	530	438	82.6	71	95.4
- part time	08	541	446	82.4	71	94.9
Other Residential Schools						
All educational levels -						
Public - full time	09	728	503	69.1	139	85.4
- part time	10	733	494	67.4	148	84.4
11th grade or below - Private - full time						
Vocational or tech. post-High School	11	738	409	55.4	230	80.5
Other Vocational or Tech or High School	12	729	391	53.6	236	79.3
11th grade or below - Private - part time						
Vocational or Tech. post-High School	13 1/	-	-	-	-	-
Other Vocational or Tech. or High School	14	732	443	60.3	206	83.7
12th grade or above - Private - full time						
Vocational or Tech. Post-High School	15	620	412	66.5	143	86.4
Other Vocational or Tech. or High School	16	619	416	67.2	143	87.4
12th grade or above - Private - part time						
Vocational or Tech. Post High School	17	621	418	67.3	126	84.4
Other Vocational or Tech. or High School	18	621	433	69.7	136	89.3
On-Job or Apprentice Training						
11th grade or below - On-Job	19	1,236	799	64.5	277	83.3
11th grade or below - Apprentice	20	1,232	788	63.1	310	85.5
12th grade or above - On-Job	21	1,070	801	74.9	176	89.6
12th grade or above - Apprentice	22	1,066	809	75.9	167	90.0
Correspondence Training						
11th grade or below - Accredited	23	1,964	1,278	65.1	479	86.1
11th grade or below - Non-Accredited	24	491	295	60.1	133	82.4
11th grade or below - Not Stated	25	427	284	66.6	88	83.8
12th grade or above - Accredited	26	1,762	1,280	72.6	326	91.4
12th grade or above - Non-Accredited	27	367	250	68.1	85	88.7
12th grade or above - Not Stated	28	383	272	71.0	76	88.6
Flight Training	29	721	556	77.1	113	91.4
Total		21,510	14,823	68.9	4,569	87.5

1/ Not used, because of insufficient cases.

22.

Appendix Table 2

Sample Standard Deviations About The Sample Means Exhibited In Text Table I (In Percentages)

Group	Fiscal Year Of Original Entrance					
	67	68	69	70	71	72
College Level						
Full-Time	3.1	3.8	3.6	2.9	3.0	2.8
Part-Time	3.3	2.7	3.6	3.1	2.3	3.6
Other Resident School						
Full-Time	4.5	3.8	3.6	3.1	2.8	3.8
Part-Time	4.4	3.8	3.4	3.5	3.0	3.7
On-Job Training						
Apprentice		2.1	2.2	4.2	5.1	11.1
Other		5.2	2.6	2.8	3.6	6.6
Correspondence (BCL)	3.9	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.7

23.

Appendix Table 3

Sample Standard Deviations About The Sample Means Exhibited in Text Table IA (In Percentages)

Training Time	Prior Educational Attainment	Fiscal Year Of Original Entrance 67	68	69	70	71	72
Full-Time	All Levels	3.1	3.8	3.6	2.9	3.0	2.8
	Ed. Level = 12	4.6	5.6	5.4	4.3	4.0	2.2
	Ed. Level 12	3.3	4.6	3.7	3.9	4.3	8.9
Part-Time	All Levels	3.3	2.7	3.6	3.1	2.3	3.6
	Ed. Level = 12	5.0	3.4	4.9	4.1	2.8	4.5
	Ed. Level 12	3.6	4.5	4.5	4.2	4.6	5.2

24.

Appendix Table 4

Sample Standard Deviations About The
Sample Means Exhibited in Text Table IB
(In Percentages)

Prior Educational Attainment	Fiscal Year Of Original Entrance					
	67	68	69	70	71	72
Ed. Level 12	11.1	10.0	7.1	7.7	5.5	6.4
Ed. Level 12	5.0	4.1	3.9	3.4	3.2	4.3

Appendix Table 5

Sample Standard Deviations About The Sample Means Exhibited in Text Table IC (In Percentages)

Prior Educational Attainment	Fiscal Year Of Original Entrance					
	67	68	69	70	71	72
Ed. Level < 12	4.5	2.9	2.5	2.6	2.2	3.0
Ed. Level ≥ 12	4.5	2.9	2.8	2.5	2.6	3.2
All Levels	3.9	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.7

26.

Appendix Table 6

Sample Standard Deviations About The
Sample Means Exhibited Text In Table 1D
(In Percentages)

Group	Prior Educational Attainment	Public	Private
College Level			
Full-Time	Ed. Level ≤ 12	2.6	2.6
	Ed. Level > 12	2.3	1.8
Part-Time	Ed. Level ≤ 12	2.0	2.2
	Ed. Level > 12	2.5	2.5
Other Resident Schools			
Full-Time		2.6	1.8
Part-Time		2.5	2.0

Appendix Table 7

Sample Means And Standard Deviations
For Earnings (Median Earnings Given In Text Table 5) 1/

Group	Completed		Not Completed	
	Mean	Standard Deviation	Mean	Standard Deviation
College Level				
Full-Time	$12,432	$177	$ 9,389	$204
Part-Time	13,344	270	11,015	187
Other Resident Schools				
Full-Time	9,211	132	8,172	172
Part-Time	11,110	190	9,641	151
On-Job Training	12,816	120	10,232	185
Correspondence	10,776	176	9,966	101
Total	11,839	80	9,978	83

1/ Note that standard deviations are given for means rather than for the medians shown in Text Table 5. The sample means are somewhat higher than the sample medians, but sample medians are usually considered to be better indicators of average earnings than are means.